

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 and 14-17 stand rejected. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 5-13. In light of the remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In light of the remarks below, Applicants request withdrawal of the pending rejections, reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being fully met by Liebman. Applicants request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 1 requires “a pressure sensor that detects pressure and that is mounted on a base member, wherein the pressure sensor and the base member are encapsulated in a hold member.”

Liebman does not disclose a pressure sensor. Liebman discloses a container that incorporates a sound-generating device. The sound-generating device 20 is contained in a container 10, so that when the user holds a pull tab 18 to open the can a photosensitive element 48 detects light transmitted inside the can to turn on a switch to start producing sound. Pull tab 18 opens the can, it is not a “pressure sensor that detects pressure” as

explicitly recited in Applicants' claim. Thus, Liebman teaches that sound is produced upon a circuit's detection of light transmitted inside the can or container.

Liebman fails to teach that sound is produced upon detection of pressure by a pressure sensor. In Liebman, the patent teaches that sound is produced when the user opens a pull-tab of a can with his or her finger or the like. In contrast, the present claim is directed to a musical tone signal generation apparatus that is characterized by performance operators each of which is capable of detecting a holding motion of a player's hand. When the player holds the performance operator, a pressure sensor installed in the performance operator detects pressure applied to the sensor and correspondingly generates a musical tone signal. Therefore, players can play music or participate in musical performance in playing music by holding the performance operators. Further, each of the pressure sensors is incorporated in a hold member that has an overall round shape allowing each player to easily grasp the hold member. Thus, Liebman is unlike the explicitly recited claims of the present invention and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being fully met by Chomette.

Applicants pending claims reference "a pressure sensor" and a musical tone generator that generates musical tones in response to pressure being detected by the pressure sensor.

Chomette discloses a sound signal generator having a soccer ball like housing wherein each of the hexagonal zones 3 acts as a key which, when depressed or selected, produce sound. Thus, Chomette fails to disclose the claimed invention whereby sound is produced in response to the detection of pressure that is applied by a user's hand holding a performance operator by use of a pressure sensor. Further, Chomette merely turns on a switch for producing sound and it is not at all related to the subject invention in which each user can play music or participate in musical performance by holding a performance operator in his or her hand and varying the applied pressure.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

The amendments to the claims are for clarification purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the claims in any way. It is asserted that the present amendment places the application in a form for allowance. Entry of this amendment is therefore earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas - 41st Floor
New York, New York 10036-2714
(212) 835-1400
Attorneys for Applicant

IRB/mgs